

### Amendments to the Claims

The "Listing of Claims" replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a A nonaqueous coating composition for a ~~non-aqueous system~~, formulated to be applied to a hard substrate by spray application, comprising: ~~the improvement wherein the composition contains~~ an effective foam-reducing quantity of at least one base-catalyzed reaction product of ~~comprising~~ the following reactants:

A) at least one linking compound of formula I



wherein each X group is a halogen atom or one X group is a halogen atom and two X groups represent an epoxy oxygen atom, which is attached to two adjacent carbon atoms in the  $R^1$  group to form an epoxy group, and  $R^1$  is an alkanetriyl group containing from 3 to 10 carbon atoms; and

B) at least one compound having ~~the~~ of formula II



wherein  $R^2$  is a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, organic group having from 1 to 36 carbon atoms; X is  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$ , or  $-NR^3-$  where  $R^3$  is hydrogen or a  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$  alkyl group; each AO group is independently an ethyleneoxy, 1,2-propyleneoxy, or 1,2-butylenoxy group, n is a number of from 0 to 200; and Y is hydrogen, or Y can be a mercapto group or an amino group or a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino group in place of a terminal  $-OH$  group, provided that when Y is mercapto or an amino group or a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino group, n is at least 1; wherein the mole ratio of the linking compound A) to compound B) is from 0.1:1 to 5:1; and wherein the non-aqueous coating composition forms a substantially smooth and uniform film when spray-applied to a hard substrate and dried.

2. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein said mole ratio is from about 0.6:1 to about 2:1.
3. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein said mole ratio is from about 0.8:1 to about 1.5:1.
4. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition contains from about 0.001 to 5% by weight of the at least one base-catalyzed reaction product.
5. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition contains from about 0.1 to 3% by weight of the at least one base-catalyzed reaction product.
6. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein component A) in said reaction product is epichlorohydrin.
7. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein in formula II in said reaction product n is a number of from 1 to 100.
8. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 7 wherein n is a number of from 2 to 20.
9. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein in component B) in said reaction product the R<sup>2</sup> group is a straight or branched chain alkyl group.
10. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 9 wherein in component B) n is a

number of from 2 to 20.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein component B) in said reaction product has the formula:



wherein  $R^2$  has the meaning given in claim 1, m is a number of from 0 to 100, p is a number of from 0 to 50, and q is a number of from 0 to 50.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10 wherein component A) in said reaction product is epichlorohydrin.

13. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11 wherein the mole ratio of component A) to component B) is from about 0.6:1 to 2:1.

14. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13 wherein said mole ratio is from about 1.0:1 to about 2:1.

15. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13 wherein said mole ratio is from about 0.8: to about 1.5:1.

16. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11 wherein m is a number of from 2 to 20.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 16 wherein p and q = 0.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11 wherein  $R^2$  is an alkyl group having from 4 to 12 carbon atoms.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 18 wherein  $R^2$  is a branched alkyl group.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11 wherein  $R^2$  is an alkyl group having from 4 to 12 carbon atoms, m is a number of from 4 to 50, and p and q = 0.

21. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 20 wherein component B) is isodecyl alcohol · 4EO.

22-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein component B) in said reaction product has the formula



wherein  $R^2$  has the meaning given in claim 1, m is a number of from 0 to 100, p is a number of from 0 to 50, and q is a number of from 0 to 50.

32. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31 wherein component A) in said reaction product is epichlorohydrin.

33-34. (Cancelled).

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said mole ratio is from about 0.8:1 to about 2:1.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31 wherein m is a number of

from 2 to 20.

37. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 36 wherein  $p$  and  $q = 0$ .

38. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31 wherein  $R^2$  is an alkyl group having from 4 to 12 carbon atoms.

39. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 38 wherein  $R^2$  is a branched alkyl group.

40. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 31 wherein  $R^2$  is an alkyl group having ~~from~~ from 4 to 12 carbon atoms,  $m$  is a number of from 4 to 50, and  $p$  and  $q = 0$ .

41. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40 wherein component B) is isodecyl alcohol · 4EO.

42. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is a nonaqueous solvent-based paint.

43. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of a varnish, a lacquer, and an enamel.

44. (Cancelled).

45. (New) A nonaqueous coating composition, comprising:  
an effective foam-reducing quantity of at least one base-catalyzed reaction product of the following reactants:

A) at least one linking compound of formula I



wherein each X group is a halogen atom or one X group is a halogen atom and two X groups represent an epoxy oxygen atom, which is attached to two adjacent carbon atoms in the  $R^1$  group to form an epoxy group, and  $R^1$  is an alkanetriyl group containing from 3 to 10 carbon atoms; and

B) at least one compound of formula II



wherein  $R^2$  is a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, organic group having from 1 to 36 carbon atoms; X is  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$ , or  $-NR^3-$  where  $R^3$  is hydrogen or a  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$  alkyl group; each AO group is independently an ethyleneoxy, 1,2-propyleneoxy, or 1,2-butylenoxy group, n is a number of from 0 to 200; and Y is hydrogen, or Y can be a mercapto group or an amino group or a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino group in place of a terminal  $-OH$  group, provided that when Y is mercapto or an amino group or a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino group, n is at least 1; wherein the mole ratio of the linking compound A) to compound B) is from 0.1:1 to 5:1; and wherein the non-aqueous coating composition forms a substantially smooth and uniform film when spray-applied to a hard substrate and dried with the proviso that the coating composition does not include a printing ink composition.